

CLAIMS

1. Method for continuously producing a coated fabric jacket (1) which comprises at least one gas-tight tube (2) and which is formed from two superimposed sheets (10; 20) of coated fabric (11; 21) formed by warp threads (11a; 21a) and weft threads (11b; 21b), or a coated non-woven fabric, characterised in that:

- from at least one other sheet of fabric comprising a coating on one face, at least two strips (15; 25) of fabric (16; 26) formed by warp threads (16a; 26a) and weft threads (16b; 26b) are cut having a specific width and a length which is substantially equal to the length of the tube (2) to be produced,
- an adhesive material (18; 28) is deposited on the face of each of the strips (15; 25) opposite that covered with the coating (17; 27),
- each of the strips (15; 25) is folded in two by folding over two half-faces covered with the adhesive material (18; 28) one onto the other in order to retain those strips (15; 25) in the folded state,
- each of the folded strips (15; 25) is longitudinally fixed to the first sheet (10) by positioning the separation line (15a; 25a) of the half-faces of each of the strips (15; 25) facing each other in order to determine at least one zone for forming a tube (2),
- an anti-adhesive agent (30) is deposited in the zone and on the face of the first sheet (10) contained between the two adjacent strips (15; 25),
- the second sheet (20) is pressed on the first sheet (10) and the two sheets (10; 20) are joined together by adhesively-bonding those sheets (10; 20) in the connection

zones which are not covered with the anti-adhesive agent (30), and

- the tube (2) is inflated in order to deploy the two half-faces of each of the strips (15; 25) which forms, at the inner side of the tube (2) in the region of each joint of the two sheets (10; 20), an angled connection which ensures the mechanical properties and the sealing.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the fabric (11; 21) of each sheet (10; 20) is covered with the coating (12; 22) on one face.

3. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the fabric (11; 21) of each sheet (10; 20) is covered with the coating (12; 22) on the two faces.

4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the coating (12; 22, 16; 26) is constituted by at least one layer of rubber.

5. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the coating (12; 22, 16; 26) is constituted by at least one layer of plastics material.

6. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the fixing of each folded strip (15; 25) to the first sheet (10) is brought about by applying a slight pressure and by heating each folded strip.

7. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 or 5, characterised in that the fixing of each folded strip (15; 25) to the first sheet (10) is brought about by adhesively-bonding each folded strip to the first sheet.

8. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the anti-adhesive agent (30) is constituted by a product which is incompatible with the coating (12; 22) of the sheets (10; 20), such as, for example, an infusible film, a powder or a dispersion, or a solution of anti-adhesive agent.

9. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the adhesion of the two sheets (10; 20) in the zones which are not covered with anti-adhesive agent (30) is brought about by pressing and simultaneously heating the sheets.

10. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the warp threads (11a; 21a) of the fabrics (11; 21) of the two sheets (10; 20) extend parallel with the longitudinal axis of the corresponding sheet (10; 20) and the weft threads (11b; 21b) extend perpendicularly relative to the warp threads (11a; 21a).

11. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the warp threads (16a; 26a) of the fabrics (16; 26) of the two strips (15; 25) extend parallel with the longitudinal axis of the corresponding strip (15; 25) and the weft threads (16b; 26b) extend perpendicularly relative to the warp threads (16a; 26a).

12. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that after inflation the tube (2) is rectilinear.

13. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterised in that the warp threads (11a) of the fabric (11) of the first sheet (10) are inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of that first sheet (10) and the weft threads (11b) of the first sheet (10) extend perpendicularly relative to the warp threads (11a), and in that after the second sheet (20) is pressed on the first sheet (10), the warp threads (21a) of the fabric (21) of the second sheet (20) are inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of that second sheet (20) in a direction counter to the direction of inclination of the warp threads (11a) of the first sheet (10), and the weft threads (21b) of the fabric (21) of the second sheet (20) extend perpendicularly relative to the warp threads (21a) of that second sheet (20).
14. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 9 or 13, characterised in that the warp threads (16a; 26a) and the weft threads (16b; 26b) of the fabrics (16; 26) of the two strips (15; 25) are arranged in an identical manner to the warp threads (11a) and the weft threads (11b) of the first sheet (10), before the strips (15; 25) are folded.
15. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, 13 or 14, characterised in that after inflation, the tube (2) has the form of a torus.
16. Coated fabric jacket, characterised in that it is produced using the method according to any one of the preceding claims.
17. Coated fabric jacket according to claim 16, characterised in that it comprises n tubular zones and n+1 connection zones.

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